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For Immediate Release
June 1, 2005

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Soil erosion control legislation passes House

LANSING – Residential property owners doing certain work around their homes and in their yards would be exempt from soil erosion and sedimentation control permits and fees under legislation passed unanimously today in the House, Sen. Jud Gilbert and Rep. Phil Pavlov announced.

“This common sense legislation will help to prevent residents from running into problems when doing personal yard work if they live near the water,” said Gilbert, R-Algonac. “It is unreasonable to require a permit for repairing a portion of seawall or planting a garden. The bills will let these property owners to do that while still allowing for control of soil erosion.”

Senate Bill 282 and House Bill 4444 would exempt certain residential projects and other outdoor household maintenance from the permit requirements of Michigan’s soil and sedimentation control program.

“Soil erosion is an essential factor in evaluating the environment, but we must realize that putting a garden in your yard will not deteriorate it,” said Pavlov, R-St. Clair Township. “If homeowners in St. Clair County want to perform routine yard maintenance they shouldn’t need a permit to do so.”

SB 282 is headed back to the Senate for concurrence before being sent to the governor. HB 4444 now goes to the Senate for consideration.

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